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Agenda item 20 (c)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

Belarus, Japan, Kazakstan, Russian Federation and Ukraine: revised draft resolution

Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/190 of 21 December 1990, 46/150 of 18 December 1991, 47/165 of 18 December 1992 and 48/206 of 21 December 1993,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, 1991/51 of 26 July 1991 and 1992/38 of 30 July 1992 and Council decision 1993/232 of 22 July 1993,

Taking note of the decisions adopted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 45/190, 46/150, 47/165 and 48/206,

Noting with appreciation the contribution made by Member States and by organizations of the United Nations system to the development of cooperation to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the activities of regional and other organizations, in particular the Commission of the European Communities, as well as bilateral activities and those of non-governmental organizations,

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Welcoming the commitments made by Member States in the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, 1/ adopted on 24 October 1995, to intensify cooperation on natural disaster reduction and major technological and man-made disasters, disaster relief, post-disaster rehabilitation and humanitarian assistance in order to enhance the capabilities of affected countries to cope with such situations,

Conscious of the forthcoming tenth anniversary of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which became the largest technological catastrophe in terms of its scope and created humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health consequences and problems of common concern, requiring for their solution wide and active international cooperation and coordination of efforts in this field at the international and national levels,

Expressing profound concern about the ongoing effects on people's lives and health, in particular those of children, in the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as in other countries most affected by the Chernobyl disaster,

Noting the readiness of Ukraine in principle to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000, bearing in mind the need for adequate support from relevant countries and international organizations for this purpose,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/206, 2/

1. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 45/190, 46/150, 47/165 and 48/206 and, through existing coordination mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Coordinator for International Cooperation on Chernobyl, to continue to maintain close cooperation with the agencies of the United Nations system as well as with regional and other relevant organizations, with a view to encouraging the regular exchange of information, cooperation and coordination of multilateral and bilateral efforts in those areas, while implementing programmes and specific projects, inter alia, in the framework of relevant agreements and arrangements;

2. Invites Member States, in particular donor States, relevant multilateral financial institutions and other concerned parties of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to provide support to the ongoing efforts made by Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to cope with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and requests the Secretary-General to appeal to Member States to continue and intensify this assistance;

3. Notes the establishment in Ukraine of an International Scientific and Technological Centre for Nuclear and Radiological Accidents as an important step towards enhancing the capabilities of the international community to study,

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1/ See A/50/48, para. 2.

2/ A/50/418.

mitigate and minimize the consequences of such accidents, and invites all interested parties to take part in its activities;

4. Declares 26 April 1996 the International Day Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident, and invites Member States to conduct appropriate activities to commemorate this tragic event and to enhance public awareness of the consequences of such disasters for human health and the environment throughout the world;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-second session, under a separate sub-item, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.